

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEDAN 00283 280349Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07  
SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01  
FEA-01 /101 W

-----106877 281128Z /10

R 280330Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL MEDAN

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 721

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEDAN 0283

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ID

SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED SABOTAGE AT PERTAMINA TANK FARM

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS JULY 26 AND 27 DESCRIBE JULY 24 ATTEMPT BY FOUR UNIDENTIFIED MASKED INTRUDERS TO SET ABLAZE PERTAMINA TANK FARM AT PANGKALAN SUSU, LOCATED NEAR NORTH SUMATRA/ACEH BORDER. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, INTRUDERS OVERPOWERED TWO GUARDS AT SITE AND SUCCEEDED IN DAMAGING FLOW METERS, ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AND THE TELEPHONE NETWORK. A POLICE PATRAOL, ALERTED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS, SURPRISED THE WOULD-BE SABOTEURS AS THEY WERE PRYING OPEN STORAGE TANKS AND SPREADING OIL-SOAKED GUNNY BAGS AROUND SITE. ALL FOUR INTRUDERS ESCAPED. ANOTHER REPORT CLAIMS THAT INTRUDERS HOISTED A RED FLAG AND PUT UP WALL POSTERS AT THE SITE. IN A SEPARATE, THOUGH APPARENTLY RELATED INCIDENT, POLICE SEIZED A RED FLAG ADORNED WITH A CRESCENT AND STAR ALONG WITH SEVERAL PAMPHLETS IN THE SAME AREA (PRESS ACCOUNTS DO NOT DISCLOSE NATURE OF PAMPHLETS OR DATE OF THIS INCIDENT). MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE REPORTEDLY DETAINED ONE SUSPECT IN THIS CASE.

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END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

2. COMMENT: PANGKALAN SUS FACILITY IS MAJOR TERMINAL FOR PETROLEUM EXPORTS FROM NORTH SUMATRA AND ITS DESTRUCTION, PRESUMABLY

BY ELEMENTS FROM ACEH INDEPENDENCE GROUP, WOULD HAVE BEEN BOTH EMBARRASSING AND COSTLY IN ECONOMIC TERMS FOR GOI. REGIONAL LEVEL OFFICIALS IN MEDAN HAVE MADE NO PUBLIC COMMENT AS YET ON THE INCIDENT AND PRESS REPORTS ON IT CEASED JULY 27, PROBABLY ON INSTRUCTION OF LAKSUS/KOKAMTIB. EVIDENTLY GOI WANTS TO PURSUE QUIETLY AND SERIOUSLY ITS INVESTIGATION OF THIS POTENTIALLY SERIOUS INCIDENT, AVOIDING NUISANCE OF INCESSANT AND, PERHAPS, SOMETIMES EMBARRASSING QUERIES FROM PRESS.

WALKER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SABOTAGE, PETROLEUM, FUEL TANKS  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009